

AMENDED CLAIMS

B¹ 1. An implantable medical device comprising a body portion overlaid by a fabric overlayer, the body portion comprising at least one polymer intimately mixed with at least one therapeutic agent, wherein the therapeutic agent is capable of being released from the body portion of the device.

B² 21. A heart valve prosthesis comprising a sewing ring comprising a body portion comprising a biostable polymer intimately mixed with a therapeutic agent, said body portion overlaid by a polyester fabric overlayer.

B³ 25. A heart valve prosthesis comprising a sewing ring comprising a body portion comprising a polymer intimately mixed with a therapeutic agent, said body portion overlaid by a polyester fabric overlayer.

B⁴ 29. In a bioprosthetic heart valve comprising a polymer insert containing struts attached to tissue leaflets to form a valve housing, wherein a fabric sheath encloses the polymer insert to form sewing ring, said sewing ring attached circumferentially to the base of the valve housing, the improvement comprising an releasable therapeutic agent polymer intimately mixed with the polymer insert.

B⁵ 37. In a mechanical heart valve comprising a metallic ringed valve housing containing a central metallic strut along which a flow occluder disk moves, wherein a fabric sheath encloses a metal insert to form a sewing ring, the improvement comprising a releasable therapeutic agent intimately mixed with at least one polymer added to the sewing ring.

B⁶ 41. An annuloplasty ring comprising a body portion overlaid by a polyester fabric overlayer, the body portion comprising a biostable polymer intimately mixed with an releasable therapeutic agent.

B⁷ 52. A method for ameliorating the inflammatory response associated

with heart valve replacement in a patient comprising implanting a prosthetic heart valve into the patient, wherein the prosthetic heart valve comprises a sewing ring comprising a body portion comprising a polymer intimately mixed with a releasable anti-inflammatory agent, said body portion overlaid by a fabric overlayer.

56. A method for ameliorating the inflammatory response associated with heart valve repair in a patient comprising implanting an annuloplasty ring into the patient, wherein the annuloplasty ring comprises a body portion comprising a biostable polymer intimately mixed with a releasable anti-inflammatory agent, said body portion overlaid by a fabric overlayer.

60. A method of making a medical sewing ring comprising:
incorporating a therapeutic agent into an annular insert comprising a constituent material, such that the therapeutic agent is intimately mixed with the constituent material;
enclosing the annular insert in a fabric sheath.
